



WIOA Local Area Designation and Local Board Certification PY 2023 – PY 2024

Background: Under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), the Governor is responsible for designating local workforce development areas after consultation with the State Workforce Board, chief local elected officials (CEOs) and local workforce development boards. The Governor is also responsible for certifying local workforce development boards for each local area designated in the State.

Pursuant to WIOA section 106(b)(3) and as described in [Workforce Innovation Notice: 01-01](#) "... the Governor (must) approve a request for ... designation as a local area from such local area, if such area: (a) performed successfully; (b) sustained fiscal integrity; and (c) in the case of a local area in a planning region, met the requirements described in subsection (c)(1).

[Note: Per [Workforce Innovation Notice 01-04](#), Rhode Island has designated each local area a 'region' for the purposes of regional planning. Accordingly, criteria (c) is not applicable.]

Pursuant to WIOA section 107 and as described in [Workforce Innovation Notice: 01-03](#) "certification shall be based on: (a) the composition criteria established under Sec. 107(b) and... the extent to which the local board has ensured that workforce investment activities carried out in the local area have enabled the local area to (b) meet the local performance measures and (c) achieve sustained fiscal integrity.

The term "performed successfully" for both designation and certification means the local workforce development area met or exceeded the adjusted levels of performance for primary indicators of performance for the last two consecutive years for which data are available, and that the local area has not failed the same measure for the last two consecutive program years.

The term "Sustained Fiscal Integrity" for both designation and certification means the Secretary of the United States Department of Labor has not made a formal determination that either the grant recipient or the administrative entity of the area misexpended funds due to willful disregard of the requirements of the provision involved, gross negligence or failure to comply with accepted standards of administration for the two-year period preceding the determination.

In 2015, the state designated Providence/Cranston and Greater Rhode Island as local workforce development areas and as initially certified workforce development boards. After the state established formal policy for subsequent designation and certification, Providence-Cranston and Greater Rhode Island were recertified in Program Year 2020 as well as Program Years 2021-2022 (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023).

Per section 106 (b)(3) of WIOA and 20 CFR 679.250, local areas are considered to have requested continued or subsequent designation unless the local area and chief elected official notifies the State indicating that they no longer seek designation. Therefore, it is not necessary for existing local areas to submit requests for designation or certification.

Local Area Designation Approval: The State Workforce Development Board reviewed the criteria for subsequent (continuing) Local Area Designation for both active local workforce development areas in the state: **Greater Rhode Island** and **Providence/Cranston**.

- Both areas were determined to have **performed successfully** as defined by 20 CFR 679.260
- Both areas were determined to have **sustained fiscal integrity** as defined 20 CFR 679.260
- Because each local area is considered a 'region' for the purposes of regional planning; criteria (c) is not applicable

Local Board Certification Approval: The State Workforce Development Board reviewed the criteria for Local Board Certification for both active local workforce development boards in the state: the State Workforce Development Board, acting as Local Board for the **Greater Rhode Island** area pursuant to authority granted by the US Secretary of Labor and **Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston**.

- Both local boards meet the **Board Membership requirements** of WIOA Sec. 107(b)
- Both boards were determined to have **performed successfully** as defined by 20 CFR 679.260
- Both boards were determined to have **sustained fiscal integrity** as defined 20 CFR 679.260

Therefore, the State Workforce Development recommends that both **Greater Rhode Island** and **Providence/Cranston** be approved by the Governor for subsequent local area designation and that the State Workforce Development Board, acting as Local Board for the **Greater Rhode Island** area pursuant to authority granted by the US Secretary of Labor, and **Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston** be recertified by the Governor as local boards for their respective workforce development areas under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, for a two-year period effective Program Years (PY) July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025.

While designation and certification are required if the local area and board meets the above criteria, the state welcomes public comment as part of the designation and certification process.

Stakeholders, interested parties, and members of the general public interested in providing comment regarding the designation and certification approvals described above are encouraged to email: dlt.gwbinfo@dlt.ri.gov

We ask that you please indicate that you are submitting Public Comment regarding Local Area Designation or Local Board Certification in the subject line [Example: PUBLIC COMMENT – Local Area Designation]. Your comments will be taken under advisement. **(NOTE: Other than confirmation of receipt we are unable to respond directly to submissions)**

You may also provide comment via US Mail:

*Public Comment - Governor's Workforce Board RI
Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training
1511 Pontiac Avenue, Building 73-1
Cranston, Rhode Island 02920*

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD CLOSSES Monday June 26, 2023.